

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): SALICE

Examiner:

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit:

Filed: Herewith

Docket: 298-146

For: A LIFTING APPARATUS FOR  
A TWO LEAF FOLDING FLAP

Dated: January 15, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, between lines 5 and 6 (underneath the title) insert - -BACKGROUND  
OF THE INVENTION- -;

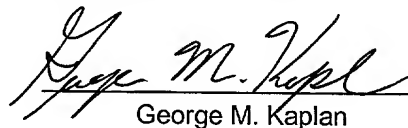
Page 2, between lines 8 and 9 insert - -SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION- -;

Page 4, between lines 6 and 7, insert - -BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE  
DRAWINGS- -; and

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number **EV035533291US** addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: January 15, 2001

  
George M. Kaplan

Page 5, between lines 8 and 9 insert - -DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS- -.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claims 3-9 as follows and add Claims 10-20:

3. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the pivot axle (12) penetrates an elongate opening of the lever (13, 30).
4. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the longer lever arm (56) consists of two parts (31, 33) which are displaceable relative to one another and fixable to one another.
5. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring element (20) is hinged to the longer lever arm (31, 32).
6. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lever (13) is provided in the region of the pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which the spring element (20) is hinged.
7. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring element (20) is hinged to one end of a link (53) whose other end is linked to the body part and wherein a rod (54) is hinged like a connecting rod to the link (53), between its joints, with its other end being linked to the lever or to a third arm of the lever.

8. A lifting apparatus in accordance with any of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring element (20) or of the rod (54) sweeps over the pivot axle (12) of the lever between the closed position and the open position of the folding flap.

9. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the spring element is a gas compression spring (20).

10. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein the pivot axle (12) penetrates an elongate opening of the lever (13, 30).

11. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 10, wherein the longer lever arm (56) consists of two parts (31, 33) which are displaceable relative to one another and fixable to one another.

12. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 11, wherein the spring element (20) is hinged to the longer lever arm (31, 32).

13. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 12, wherein the lever (13) is provided in the region of the pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which the spring element (20) is hinged.

14. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein the spring element (20) is hinged to one end of a link (53) whose other end is linked to the body part and wherein a rod (54) is hinged like a connecting rod to the link (53), between its joints, with its other end being linked to the lever or to a third arm of the lever.

15. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring element (20) or of the rod (54) sweeps over the pivot axle (12) of the lever between the closed position and the open position of the folding flap.

16. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 15, wherein the spring element is a gas compression spring (20).

17. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein the spring element (20) is hinged to one end of a link (53) whose other end is linked to the body part and wherein a rod (54) is hinged like a connecting rod to the link (53), between its joints, with its other end being linked to the lever or to a third arm of the lever.

18. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring element (20) or of the rod (54) sweeps over the pivot axle (12) of the lever between the closed position and the open position of the folding flap.

19. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lever (13) is provided in the region of the pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which the spring element (20) is hinged.

20. A lifting apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the lever (13) is provided in the region of the pivot axle (12) with a third arm (19) to which the spring element (20) is hinged.

REMARKS:

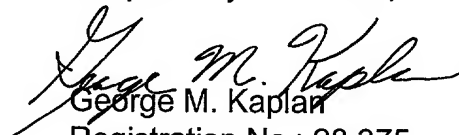
The claims in the application are 1-20.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate all multiple dependencies with claims 10-20 added (a marked-up copy is enclosed). The specification has been amended for formal reasons.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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